

1990

SESSION RESOLUTION

ENROLLED AND DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE

RESOLUTION 7—S.F.No. 1973

A resolution memorializing the President and Congress to reauthorize the low-income home energy assistance program and to increase its appropriation for fiscal year 1991 and subsequent years.

WHEREAS, in 1981, Congress enacted the low-income home energy assistance program to provide funds to low-income Americans to help them pay for the costs of energy to heat their homes; and

WHEREAS, authorization for the program will expire in 1990 and, in order for the federal government to continue to provide assistance to low-income families for their energy needs, the program must be reauthorized by Congress this year; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to the present, the funding level for the program has been reduced by more than \$600 million to a level of \$1.393 billion, while eligibility for the program has been expanded to include energy assistance for household cooling, resulting in great financial hardship for many low-income Americans in cold weather states; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota received \$82,239,180 in appropriated funding in fiscal year 1984, which provided 139,573 households with energy assistance averaging \$465 per household, but by fiscal year 1989, this appropriation had declined to an estimated \$54,861,723, which resulted in average energy assistance grants of only \$331 being provided to 108,299 households; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 1991 calls for a further 25 percent reduction in funding at a time when prices for heating oil, natural gas, propane, and electricity used for home energy are rising. This will result in reduced availability of energy assistance grants to low-income families and, in harsh climates like Minnesota's, could result in life-threatening circumstances for low-income persons; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that Congress should speedily enact legislation reauthorizing the low-income home energy assistance program and that Congress should increase the appropriation to \$2.3 billion, the level of funding authorized in fiscal year 1990, and that appropriations in subsequent years should be increased by at least the rate of inflation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President should support and sign into law legislation enacted by Congress reauthorizing the low-income home energy assistance program and appropriating sufficient funds to provide for the current and future home energy needs of low-income Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of Minnesota shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 26, 1990

Signed by the governor May 3, 1990, 5:16 p.m.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.